REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 19 and 20 have been amended. Claim 1 has been amended as supported in the present specification, including at page 27, lines 15-23 and at page 27, line 27 to page 28, line 22. Claim 5 has been amended as supported in the specification, including at page 19, lines 33-34. Claims 19 and 20 have been amended as supported in the specification, including at page 9, lines 9-10. No new matter has been added.

Claims 5 and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, because the Examiner finds these claims to be indefinite. Claim 5 has been amended as shown above to more clearly recite the water content as by weight, which is supported in the specification as noted above. Claims 19 and 20 have been amended as shown above to more clearly recite the length in a longitudinal direction, which is supported in the specification as noted above.

Accordingly, the applicants submit that all presently considered claims are fully allowable under Section 112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1 and 10-11, 13, 16-17 and 19-20 under 35 USC 102(e) in view of Ohya et al.

The applicants further traverse the rejection of claims 3-9, 12, 14-15 and 18 under 35 USC 103(a) in view of Ohya et al.

The cited reference does not anticipate the presently claimed invention nor make it obvious.

Before addressing the cited reference, please consider the following remarks about the features of the presently claimed invention. The presently claimed invention provides a process for preparing a sheet-state ink-jet recording material having a photo-like glossiness and the feel of a material like a photograph, and causes no rubbing at a head (the phenomenon of contacting an ink-jet head with a recording sheet) at the time of printing (see page 1, lines 9-14 of the present specification).

The present recording material comprises a polyolefin resin-coated paper (that in which a polyolefin resin is coated on the both surfaces of base paper) which is the same as photographic paper, and an ink-receptive layer(s) containing inorganic particles having an average primary particle size of 30 nm or less and a hydrophilic binder.

However, in an ink-jet recording material in which the above-mentioned ink-receptive layer is provided, curl (hereinafter referred to as "plus curl" in the direction of a printed surface side tends to be excessive due to shrinkage of the ink-receptive layer during the drying step after providing the ink-receptive layer, as described at page 3, lines 8-12 of the present specification.

If the plus curl is excessive, a phenomenon that the recording material and an ink-jet head of a printer are contacted to each other at the time of printing (this is called to as "head rubbing") frequently occurs as described at page 3, lines 12-16 of the present specification.

Moreover, in recent years, high-speed printing by an ink-jet printer and high quality printed image are required. Accompanying these requirements and to improve the precision of dotted points of ink, clearance of the ink-jet head and the

recording material tends to be small, as described at page 3, lines 26-30 of the present specification. Also, when the above mentioned printer is used, head rubbing is more excessive if an ink-jet recording material in which an ink-receptive layer containing inorganic fine particles having an average primary particle size of 30 nm or less and a hydrophilic binder on a polyolefin resin-coated paper is used.

Accordingly, in such a situation, the present invention includes a sheet-state ink-jet recording material and a process for preparing the same, which material has a photo-like glossiness and the feel of a material like a photograph, and causing no rubbing at a head at the time of printing.

Turning now to the cited reference of Ohya et al, this reference discloses an ink-jet recording medium and a manufacturing method thereof as described at the paragraph [0018] of the reference and is described as solving the problems 1-10 described in paragraph [0018].

Among these problems 1-10, addressed in Ohya et al., the fifth thereof is to provide an image with image quality identical to that of silver halide photographic image at high speed.

At the paragraph [0316] of the reference and noted in the Office Action, the reference discloses that a recording medium 1 with a width of 12.7 cm in a roll form was set into position, and images were continuously printed on the recording medium, with the resulting recording medium being cut by a cutter every 8.9 cm.

Thus, the recording medium cut by the cutter is after printing and there is no description about effects of cutting before printing an image.

Accordingly, the process described in Ohya is significantly different from the process of the presently claimed invention.

Therefore, the presently claimed process is not disclosed, suggested or made obvious by the teachings of Ohya et al. The presently claimed invention is not only allowable under Section 102(e), but is also allowable under Section 103(a) in view of the cited art.

In view of the above, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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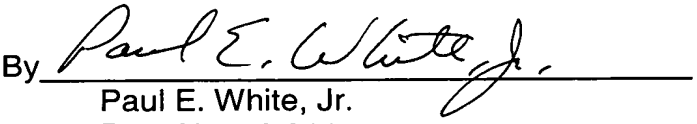
By 

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